

a! predetermined matter (16) in the fluid (21) becomes trapped in the filter media; and

(f) flowing] the filtered fluid is flowed out of the tank means (30) by allowing the filtered fluid to overflow. --

REMARKS

The claims have been amended. Non-elected Claims 1-14 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added to the application.

For convenience in prosecution, all non-cancelled claims are repeated herein.

Claims 15-18 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Williamson et al. Claims 15-18 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Iwai et al. Claims 1-12 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Williamson et al. or Iwai et al. Applicant has amended claim 15 to overcome these rejections.

Claim 15 has been amended to better distinguish the present invention from the prior art. Claim 15 now emphasizes some features of the present invention which make it a good process for filtering fluid, including the features that the filter media rises out of the fluid and that incoming fluid draws fluid, filter media which has moved out of the fluid, and particulates into the vertical tube and conveys the fluid, filter media, and particulates into the quiet zone, such that the filter media is in constant movement. This is not shown or suggested in any reference of record. In Iwai et al., the influent does not cause filter media to travel from the filter zone to a quiet zone - rather, a separate

conveyer belt is used for that purpose. In Williamson et al., a pump (62, 102, 122, 186) is used to move the filter media. The invention as claimed in claim 15 is advantageous in that there are no moving parts needed to move the filter media from the filter zone to the quiet zone. Also, unlike in Williamson et al. (see, for example, Fig. 5 of Williamson et al.), the filter media (including that which rises out of the filter) is in constant motion.


Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely.

Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-2435.

Respectfully submitted,




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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on May 29, 1998.



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